United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General expresses shock and outrage at massacre perpetrated on displaced persons at Camp Carter, near Harbel, Liberia; instructs his Special Representative to conduct investigation into incident; appeals to all concerned to respect protection of innocent civilians.

+ Special Envoy for Haiti welcomes resignation of Marc Bazin as "Prime Minister" of de facto Haitian government; says such move might facilitate re-establishment of constitutional process and return of President Aristide.

+ In Somalia, Secretary-General's Special Representative says security situation is "mixed"; recent events in Mogadishu have not affected humanitarian activities, according to spokesman.

+ Ambassador Knut Vollebaek of Norway appointed Deputy to Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of International Conference on former Yugoslavia; Co-Chairmen to hold talks in Geneva on Saturday, 12 June, with Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bosnian Croats.

+ UNTAC encourages Cambodian political parties to intensify negotiations; says Prince Sihanouk has critical role in process and is "unquestionably called" to lead interim administration.

+ Secretary-General, in Paris, meets French Social Affairs Minister; discusses implementation of Security Council resolution 836 with Thorvald Stoltenberg and Under-Secretary-General Goulding.

+ Mario Zamorano appointed Director of United Nations Information Centre in Madrid; will assume position on 14 June.

+ Albania says it would object to name of "Slavo-Macedonia" for former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia since Albanians make up almost 40 per cent of the population.

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For information media--not an official record

+ Effective prevention in developing countries could cut number of new infection with HIV by 9,5 million this decade, according to World Health Organization.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed shock and outrage over the "senseless massacre" perpetrated on "defenceless displaced persons" over the weekend at Camp Carter near Harbel, in Liberia.

In a press release issued tonight at Headquarters, a Spokesman of the Secretary-General said that Mr. Boutros-Ghali had instructed his Special Representative, Mr. Trevor Gordon-Somers, to depart from Bamako, Mali, and proceed immediately to Monrovia to conduct a thorough investigation into this incident.

In the press release, the Secretary-General appealed to all concerned in the conflict in Liberia to have due respect for the principles regarding protection of innocent civilians caught in this senseless tragedy. According to preliminary reports, the majority of those killed in the incident were women and children, noted the communiqué.

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The resignation of Marc Bazin as "Prime Minister" of the de facto government in Haiti is a welcome development insofar as it might facilitate the re-establishment of the constitutional process and the return of President Aristide, a spokesman for the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Haiti, Dante Caputo, said today.

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In Somalia, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Admiral Jonathan T. Howe, has described the security situation following the recent attacks on the United Nations Operation in that country (UNOSOM II) as "mixed", according to a United Nations spokesman today. The recent events and the tangible tension in Mogadishu would undoubtedly influence other parts of Somalia, he said. In Mogadishu, there were reports of sporadic incidents of violence, and UNOSOM II was continuing aerial surveillance of the area.

This morning, UNOSOM had received a message from 11 Somali parties expressing support for the Security Council's resolution 837 (1993) and condemning the recent attack on UNOSOM's forces. With regard to the humanitarian activities throughout the country, the recent incidents in Mogadishu had not affected the relief work by the United Nations or by non-governmental organizations in the rest of the country, the spokesman said.

According to an interview this morning with UNOSOM II spokesman Farouk Mawlawi, there was still "plenty of weapons" in Mogadishu, and the disarmament of the Somali factions in the city and its surroundings prior to the coming of UNOSOM II had been "very limited". Asked if there had been any attempts to

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disarmament since UNOSOM II took over on 1 May, Mr. Mawlawi said the United Nations troops had barely engaged in confiscating weapons. He noted that considering the amount of weapons known to exist in the country, "we have probably barely touched the surface".

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Ambassador Knut Vollebaek has been appointed Deputy to Thorvald Stoltenberg, one of the two Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, according to a United Nations spokesman today. Lord Owen, the European Community's negotiator on former Yugoslavia, is the other Co-Chairman.

Mr. Vollebaek is a Norwegian career Diplomat, whose previous posts have included New Delhi, Madrid and Harare. From October 1989 to November 1990, he was Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway. Until March this year, he was Norwegian Ambassador to Central America. He then rejoined the Foreign Ministry as Director General.

Both Co-Chairmen would have a final round of discussions with the Secretary-General tomorrow, Wednesday, 9 June, prior to their departure for Belgrade, the spokesman said. They would return to Geneva at the end of the week for talks on Saturday, 12 June, with the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Bosnian Croats.

In a related development, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) expressed its deep concern at the water shortages affecting the besieged inhabitants of Srebrenica and the civilian population of Mostar and Donji Vakuf, according to a press release issued at Headquarters today. The ICRC appealed to the authorities concerned to allow the Committee to provide assistance in order to avoid the outbreak of epidemics.

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The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) today asked Cambodia's political parties to intensify negotiations towards a peaceful transition of power and national reconciliation. UNTAC made that call one day before the announcement of the final results of the recent elections and two days before the convening of a meeting of the country's Supreme National Council chaired by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

An UNTAC spokesman said Prince Sihanouk had a critical role to play in the transition process and was "unquestionably called" to lead an interim joint administration. UNTAC wished him success in talks with the Front Uni National pour un Cambodge indépendant, neutre, pacifique et coopératif (FUNCINPEC) and the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), within the framework of the Paris Peace Accords and bearing in mind the election results.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Mario Zamorano as Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Madrid. Mr. Zamorano, who succeeds Bernal Vargas-Saborio, will assume the position on 14 June.

Mr. Zamorano, a national of Chile, has been Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Mexico City since 1988. Between 1982 and 1988, he was Associate Spokesman for the Secretary-General at Headquarters, and served as Spokesman for the President of the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly. Mr. Zamorano joined the Secretariat in 1980 as an Information Officer in the Department of Public Information.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, on the second day of a working visit to Paris, today called on the French Minister of Social Affairs. He later met with Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, with Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding in attendance. They discussed the implementation of Security Council resolution 836 (1993), which authorizes the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to use force in reply to attacks against six Bosnian towns designated as safe areas.

The Secretary-General was due to meet this afternoon with the Mayor of Paris, and was also expected to hold talks with senior members of the French Government, including President François Mitterrand. Yesterday, the Secretary-General had what was described as "a very good meeting" with an envoy of President Mobutu of Zaire.

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Albania has said that it would strongly object to the adoption of the name "Slavo-Macedonia" for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The name would sanction unequal treatment of Albanians, who made up almost 40 per cent of the Republic's population, the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations, Thanas Shkurti, said in a letter to the Security Council, dated 7 June.

Albanians in Macedonia considered the name "Slavo-Macedonia" unacceptable and humiliating, and the Government of Albania associated itself with their denouncement of it, according to the letter.

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Effective prevention in developing countries could cut the number of new infections with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) by 9.5 million this decade, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). That would mean 4 million fewer infections in both Africa and Asia, and 1 million fewer in Latin America, Dr. Michael Merson, Director of the WHO Global AIDS Programme told the Ninth International Conference on AIDS in Berlin.

Prevention included promoting condoms, treating all sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS education in schools, and needle exchange programmes for drug users, Dr. Merson stressed. He added that such measures should be adapted to local circumstances and constraints.

Dr. Merson said that an annual $2.5 billion price tag for HIV prevention in developing countries should be regarded as an investment for the future. Investing that amount by the year 2000 would lead to savings of nearly $90 billion in direct and indirect costs from AIDS, he contended.

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